

CRESCENT CLUB'S FIRE

MAKES MEMBERS WORK

Intimate Apparel Thrown Out Windows, Littering Up Lawn.

TROUSERS ON THE TREES

After 'Twas All Over the Excited Ones Had to Move In Again.

Fire in the Crescent Athletic Club's country house at Bay Ridge yesterday morning caused slight damage to the house but furnished diversion for the members. The clubhouse occupies a site among the trees and shrubs on the shore road at the foot of Eighty-fifth street. It is a picturesque, shingled building and the upper floors are bedrooms, which at this season are occupied by members who have to spend the summer in the city. On the south end is a porte-cochere and on the south and west sides of the house are wide piazzas.

It was about 2 o'clock when Guido Barizzi, the night watchman, who was making his rounds, smelled smoke. Barizzi was then on the top floor and being satisfied that the smoke was not one of George Stebbins' cigars he began to investigate. Following the trail he reached the south end of the piazza and there was sure that the smoke was coming from a fire in the basement.

The basement at that end of the house is used for the storage of coal. When Barizzi opened the door of the coal section he was almost knocked down by the smoke which poured out.

He slammed the door shut again and quickly rang the fire alarm. The alarm rings on each floor of the house and at the same time gives the signal to fire headquarters.

Being fearful that the alarm would not disturb some of the members who were sleeping peacefully, Barizzi was so concerned that he went to the door and pounded on the door until the occupants got up.

Charles W. Bull, better known in the club as Pop, who has held the office of president more times than any other member, was dreaming peacefully of "30-30" when he was awakened by the sound of the alarm. He was in his window when he saw the smoke and he quickly dressed and went downstairs.

George T. Stebbins, who loves to work, slept in a room on the second floor and he too got up when he saw the smoke.

Bill Gillespie, ex-deputy police commissioner, who is a member of the club, was in his pajamas, but he was not in bed. He was in the fire engine at work.

They rolled out the hose, Stebbins at the nozzle, and were just attaching it to the hydrant when the first fire engine, with real firemen, arrived and the firemen and the club members retired while the firemen got to work.

By that time the smoke was as thick as from a crude oil fire and it had come all through the house. The firemen, who were in a window and smashed a hole through the dining room door and soon started to drown out the blaze. They were successful.

In the meantime the fifty other odd members were not disturbed. They were in a shower of all sorts of articles were thrown out, some landing on the trees, others on the lawn. The firemen were reaching the lawn. Members in their excitement threw out their shaving glasses and their toothbrushes. Some of the members still with present men the rackets are very valuable.

Treasurer Harry Martin quickly hustled all he could into a big trunk and with almost superhuman effort, lifted the trunk and dumped out the contents. The trunk was not broken. Two big bags followed the trunk and then Martin quietly walked down stairs.

Col. J. Wray Cleveland, secretary of the club, and the chairman of the committee, hurried all his belongings into a big trunk and then he hurried to the fire engine and reached the fire engine before it reached the house.

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